

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 011732Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7228

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 5304

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SG, AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: DG SUCCESSION

REF: PARIS 4633

1. SUMMARY: THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE OAU MEETING IN ADDIS HAS CREATED A PSYCHOLOGICAL DISADVANTAGE FOR M'BOW'S CANDIDACY AS IT HAS STALLED HIS BANDWAGON. THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP MET THE AFTERNOON OF FEB 28 FOR THREE HOURS AND DECLINED TO ENDORSE M'BOW AT THIS TIME AND ARE TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF PRESENTING A CANDIDATE. HOWEVER, THIS SEEMS TO BE A PLOY TO INCREASE BARGAINING POWER RATHER THAN SERIOUS ATTEMPT ELECT LATIN. FURTHER, PERMDEL HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIALLY INFORMED DG MAHEU IS BEING PUT FORTH BY GOVTS PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN AS CANDIDATE. THIS APPEARS EFFORT SPLIT GROUP 77 AND ENDORSEMENT PROBABLY RESULTS FROM MAHEU'S STRONG SUPPORT RESTORATION MONUMENTS AND PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP AFGHAN EXBD MEMBER. ON BASIS COUNT OF
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PROBABLE VOTE IN EXBD AS OF THIS DATE M'BOW SEEMS

RELIABLY HAVE 20 VOTES (INCLUDING U.S.) WITH 21 NEEDED FOR MAJORITY.

2. THE UNESCO LATIN AMERICAN GROUP, CHAIRED BY MENDOZA OF VENEZUELA MET IN LENGTHY SESSION FOR THREE HOURS AFTERNOON FEB 28. MEXICO, BRAZIL, HAITI AND URUGUAY PRESSED FOR ENDORSEMENT OF M'BOW BUT WERE VIROGOUSLY OPPOSED BY VENEZUELA (MENDOZA) AND COLOMBIA (BETANCUR-MEJIA). LATTER ARGUED LA'S SHOULD NOT ENDORSE M'BOW BUT SHOULD PUT FORTH A LATIN CANDIDATE TO INCREASE THEIR BARGAINING POWER. PANAMA AND ECUADOR JOINED VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA AND THE RESULT WAS A DEADLOCK. MEETING ADJOURNED WITHOUT ENDORSEMENT M'BOW AND WITH REPS FOUR STRONGLY DISSENTING COUNTRIES GOING BACK TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A CANDIDATE.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL LA PERMDELS INDICATES DOUBT THAT LA'S WILL ACTUALLY PRESENT A CANDIDATE. CANCINO OF MEXICO TOLD PERMDEL HE DID NOT BELIEVE MEJIA (WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE THE LA CANDIDATE) COULD GET THE SUPPORT OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT SINCE HE HAS SUPPORTED OPPOSITION PARTIES. IT WAS ALSO MENTIONED THAT LA'S FIRST PRIORITY IS TO SECURE DG FOR FAO AND THEREFORE THEY COULD NOT PRESENT A SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR UNESCO. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT THAT THE OPPONENTS OF M'BOW ARE SERIOUS. CONVERSATIONS WITH MEJIA MAKE THIS CLEAR. HE PUT FORTH REASONING THAT THE DG SPOT MUST GO TO A THIRD WORLD CANDIDATE, BUT THERE MUST BE A CHOICE. HE STATED THAT IF THE LA'S PUT UP A CANDIDATE AND IF THE ASIANS PUT UP A CANDIDATE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD THEN DECIDE WHICH WAS THE BEST QUALIFIED. OF COURSE, THIS IS BUT A PLOY FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL AMBITIONS. THE KEY WILL BE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENTS ENDORSE THE IDEA AND ACTUALLY COME FORTH WITH A CANDIDATE. MEJIA SEEMED CONFIDENT THEY WILL, CANCINO SEEMED CONFIDENT THEY WILL NOT.

4. THE LA GROUP OFTEN HAS DIFFICULTY ARRIVING AT A CONSENSUS AND THEY WERE TRUE TO FORM IN THIS CASE.
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IT IS CLEAR THAT CERTAIN REPS ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT M'BOW AND WOULD EITHER LIKE TO BLOCK HIM OR USE THEIR VOTES TO SECURE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF QUID PRO QUO. PERMDEL BELIEVES THE LATTER IS MOST LIKELY AND THAT THE LA'S MAY HOLD OUT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT BEFORE MAKING ANY COMMITMENT. OF THE LA'S ON THE EXBD MEXICO IS COMMITTED TO M'BOW, URUGUAY IS VERY PROBABLY FOR M'BOW, COSTA RICA AND ARGENTINA ARE UNCERTAIN

AND COLOMBIA IS OPPOSED.

5. MAHEU'S NAME PUT FORTH BY PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN-
CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES IN THE SECRETARIAT HAVE INFORMED
PERMDEL THAT PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN ARE IN PROCESS
OF PUTTING FORTH NAME OF MAHEU FOR DG. THIS PROBABLY
RESULTS FROM MAHEU'S STRONG SUPPORT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
PRESERVATION OF MOENJODARO AND LONG PERSONAL FRIEND-
SHIP WITH ETEMADI, AFGHAN EXBD MEMBER.

6. COMMENT: MUCH WILL DEPEND ON WHAT THE AFRICANS AND
ARABS DO TO PUT LIFE BACK INTO THE M'BOW BANDWAGON.
MANY OF THE KEY FIGURES -- I.E. BLAISE SENGHOR --
HAVE LEFT PARIS FOR THE OAU MEETING. COUNTING VOTES
ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD M'BOW SEEMS TO BE RELIABLY SURE
AT THIS TIME OF AT LEAST 20 VOTES -- THE AFRICAN-ARABS
12 VOTES, JAMAICA, HAITI, MEXICO AND YUGOSLAVIA, AND
IF THE U.S. UK, FRG, JAPAN AND CANADA ARE ADDED THIS
WOULD MAKE 20. TWENTY-ONE IS A MAJORITY SO M'BOW WOULD
ONLY NEED TO PICK UP SOME ASIAN VOTES (I.E. CHINA)
OR OTHER EUROPEANS -- I.E. NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, ITALY
OR AUSTRIA. THEREFORE OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT M'BOW
IS STILL BY FAR THE STRONGEST CANDIDATE. HOWEVER
THE EFFECT OF THE LA INDECISION WILL BE TO
ENCOURAGE THE PRESENT DG TO CONTINUE IN THE RACE.
WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IF AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY
WERE ASSURED FOR M'BOW MAHEU WOULD WITHDRAW RATHER
THAN SUFFER A HUMILIATING DEFEAT. THIS ALL SEEMS TO BE
AIDING THE EASTERN BLOC AS THEY MAY FEEL MORE SURE OF
THEIR HAVING A CHANCE TO HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER.
IT IS POSSIBLE THEY WILL NOMINATE A CANDIDATE AND
WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO WITHDRAW AND ENDORSE
M'BOW TAKING CREDIT FOR GIVING HIM A NEEDED CONSENSUS --
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OR EVEN MAJORITY SHOULD A DEADLOCK DEVELOP. THIS
WOULD OF COURSE BE USED AS BARGAINING POWER WITH M'BOW
AS DG. PERMDEL FEELS IT PROBABLY WISE WAIT A WHILE
AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS RE OAU AND OBSERVE MOVES OF
AFRICAN GROUP TO GET M'BOW BANDWAGON MOVING.
STONE

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